

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims.

--3 (New). A reproducing apparatus for reproducing signals from a recording medium in which first physical feature information indicative of a physical feature unique to said recording medium was recorded as ciphered information, said apparatus comprising:

deciphering means for deciphering said ciphered information to obtain said first physical feature information;

detecting means for detecting and obtaining second physical feature information from said first physical feature information;

checking means for checking whether or not said first and second physical feature information have a specific relationship; and

means for stopping a specific operation when said checking means indicates that said first and second physical feature information do not have said specific relationship.

4 (New). The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said specific operation comprises outputting information reproduced from said recording medium.

5 (New). The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said specific operation comprises an operation under control of a program reproduced from said recording

medium.

6 (New). The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein a public key cipher key is used, in said deciphering means, as a key for deciphering said ciphered information.

7 (New). The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein RSA cipher is used as said public key cipher key.

8 (New). A reproducing method for reproducing signals from a recording medium in which first physical feature information indicative of a physical feature unique to said recording medium was recorded as ciphered information, said method comprising the steps of:
deciphering said ciphered information to obtain said first physical feature information;
detecting and obtaining second physical feature information from said first physical feature information;
checking whether or not said first and second physical feature information have a specific relationship; and
stopping a specific operation when said checking means indicates that said first and second physical feature information do not have said specific relationship.

9 (New). The reproducing method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said specific

operation comprises outputting information reproduced from said recording medium.

10 (New). The reproducing method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said specific operation comprises an operation under control of a program reproduced from said recording medium.

11 (New). The reproducing method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a step of performing a specific display when said checking step indicates that said first and second physical feature information do not have said specific relationship.

12 (New). The reproducing method as claimed in claim 8, wherein a public key cipher key is used, in said deciphering means, as a key for deciphering said ciphered information.

13 (New). The reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein RSA cipher is used as said public key cipher key.--